



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

May 6, 2005

LAS VEGAS MAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS FOR SELLING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, INCLUDING RAPE DRUG, OVER THE INTERNET *ICE Cyber Crimes Center plays major role in cracking case*

LAS VEGAS – A Las Vegas man convicted of unlawfully selling prescription drugs and controlled substances over the Internet was sentenced to 120 months in federal prison today as a result of an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Food and Drug Administration.

Christian Frederic Finze, 47, a resident of Las Vegas and Germany, was convicted by a jury here in October 2004 of 17 felony counts, including conspiracy to defraud the United States, conspiracy to commit various drug offenses, and money laundering.

Finze and co-defendant Joan Davis, aka “Joan Smith,” also of Las Vegas, were originally indicted on various counts of conspiracy, distribution and importation of controlled substances. The indictment was later amended to include making false writings to a U.S. agency and money laundering. Davis pleaded guilty to Conspiracy to Defraud the United States and was sentenced to 37 months in prison.

“Unlicensed operators who peddle controlled substances pose a serious threat to our communities,” said Stephen Usiak, ICE resident agent-in-charge in Las Vegas. “Using the resources of ICE’s Cyber Crimes Center and other law enforcement tools, we’re committed to dismantling these schemes and protecting the nation’s consumers.”

According to court documents, from October 1998 to May 2002, Finze distributed prescription drugs over an Internet business known as the “Vince-Online” Web site and “Vinci American, Ltd.”

Finze set up a German-based company called CFF Pharma Consult to ship drugs from Europe to customers in the United States. The shipments included more than 7,000 units of Flunitrazepam, a drug that rapists slip to their potential victims in order to subdue them. Flunitrazepam is not approved for manufacture or distribution in the United States.

Finze’s role in the conspiracy included processing drug orders, ordering drugs from suppliers in Germany, arranging for CFF Pharma Consult to ship the drugs from Germany to customers in the U.S., and incorporating and serving as the officer and director of Vinci American, Ltd. and CFF Pharma Consult. The drugs were shipped from Germany to the United States using forged and fraudulent documents designed to deceive government authorities.

The government is also seeking the forfeiture of Finze's Las Vegas residence and approximately \$567,7000 in U.S. currency. The Court has not yet issued a decision on that aspect of the case.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.